

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204909 TOSEC 090187
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204909 TOSEC 090187

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PSDC, CH, JA, US

SUBJECT: PM FUKUDA'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S REPLY
DATED AUGUST 26, TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OUTLINING YOUR THOUGHTS CONCERNING MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING SECRETARY VANCE THIS AFTERNOON AND LEARNING ABOUT THE RESULTS OF HIS SUCCESSFUL TRIP TO CHINA. I, ON MY PART, WILL GIVE HIM A FIRST HAND
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ASSESSMENT OF MY RECENT TRIP TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.

3. AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, NUCLEAR ENERGY IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY OF JAPAN, AND IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN'S ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. THE EARLY OPERATION OF THE TOKAI REPROCESSING FACILITY IS A KEY ELEMENT ALREADY BUILT INTO JAPAN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

4. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR THE WORLD-WIDE APPLICATION OF NONPROLIFERATION MEASURES ON A NON-DISCRIMINATORY BASIS. INDEED, IT HAS LONG BEEN JAPAN'S POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN NUCLEAR-WEAPON AND NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES WITH REGARD TO THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. IF TOO STRICT CONDITIONS WERE TO BE ATTACHED TO THE OPERATION OF THE TOKAI FACILITY, JAPAN WOULD BE UNDULY HANDICAPPED AS COMPARED NOT ONLY WITH FRANCE AND BRITAIN BUT ALSO WITH WEST GERMANY. FOR JAPAN THIS WOULD BE POLITICALLY INTOLERABLE.

5. YOU KNOW THAT JAPAN HAS GIVEN UP ITS NUCLEAR OPTION AND I HAVE TO DEFEND THE CREDIBILITY OF THE NPT WHICH WE RATIFIED LAST YEAR. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF AN OVERALL JAPAN-U.S. RELATIONSHIP, IF THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER WERE TO BE VIEWED AS A REFLECTION OF LACK OF TRUST IN THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON POLICY.

6. WE ARE PREPARED TO APPROACH THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR CONCERN TO PREVENT FURTHER PROLIFERATION. I ASSURE YOU WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS TO REACH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE, HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK.

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7. AS YOU INDICATED IN YOUR MESSAGE, THE COMING MONTH IS AN IMPORTANT TIME IN BRINGING PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS. IN LIGHT OF THE EXISTING CLOSE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE UPCOMING VARIOUS CONSULTATIONS WILL NOT ONLY BE CONDUCTED IN A FRANK AND FRIENDLY MANNER, BUT ALSO BE USEFUL AND FRUITFUL.

8. LOOKING FORWARD TO KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, SINCERLY, TAKEO FUKUDA (END QUOTE).
CHRISTOPHER

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